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BOGUS POLICE SYSTEMS

Reported Disclosures of Illegal Courts and Constables.

Ignorant Persons Arrested, Tried, Convicted and Fined by Self-Styled Law Officers.

Newport News, Va., Dec. 23.—The arrest last night of Sam Gwynne on the charge of impersonating an officer, has, it is said, disclosed the fact that for some time past a wholesale swindle has been perpetrated on the innocent and half-witted negroes living in those sections of this city known as the Rockett and Bluffside.

It has been discovered that a bogus police justice court has been running full blast with a well-organized gang of fake constables and "judges" who daily take in the money of the ignorant negroes by charging, such as drunkenness, and fine them according to the size of their purses.

Some of these fines were as low as 10 cents, and the poor fellows had, on other occasions they have been as large as \$20 or more. Following the arrest, which invariably occurred during the evening or night under cover of darkness, the victim would be ordered into a dingy and dimly lighted room, which purported to be the justice's office. The victim had previously been searched, and the extent of his finances were known to the bogus justice, who invariably placed the fine at the limit of the victim's means. The victim, after being searched, was taken to the justice's office, where he was told that he was being taken to the court, and that he must pay the fine or be taken to the court.

Gwynne was arrested last night just after he had taken a man into custody. He was arrested with a revolver and a pair of pliers. He was taken to the justice's office, where he was told that he was being taken to the court, and that he must pay the fine or be taken to the court.

TELEGRAPHIC BREVITIES.

Chicago, Dec. 23.—Mrs. Jane Forrest committed suicide by throwing herself out of a second-story window today.

Valley View, Ky., Dec. 23.—No more fighting has occurred between Dora Clay's brothers. They are going heavily armed, however, hourly expecting trouble.

Patterson, N. J., Dec. 23.—Six men employed by the Pacific Rolling Mills were arrested in a gas tank. Their lives were saved with great difficulty.

Philadelphia, Dec. 23.—John J. Burns, who was a candidate for mayor of Jersey, committed suicide in his cell at Moyamensing prison today by hanging.

Pelham Manor, N. Y., Dec. 23.—Thomas W. Dick, of New York City, committed suicide today by shooting himself through the heart.

Lambertville, N. J., Dec. 23.—While suffering from an attack of melancholia, induced by a long illness, Mrs. George Naylor, living near this place, committed suicide today by shooting herself through the heart.

New Brunswick, N. J., Dec. 23.—The wife in the local office of the Standard Oil Company was dynamited by thieves last night, who gained entrance by forcing a latch on the front door. They secured \$250, which was in a box in the house.

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 23.—Burglars entered the postoffice at Buffalo, N. Y., early today and stole \$1,000 in cash. The explosion around the village, but the burglars escaped. They got \$500 in stamps and \$50 in cash.

Montreal, Dec. 23.—There is some talk of a strike of the telegraphers on the Canadian Pacific railway. The operators are endeavoring to have some grievances removed, and they are threatening to strike if their demands are not met.

New York, Dec. 23.—Percy W. Smith was arrested at 12:50 o'clock this morning for assaulting and attempting to rob the woman ticket agent at the Broadway and Eleventh street station on the Brooklyn Elevated road. He injured the woman so badly that an ambulance was sent for.

Troy, N. Y., Dec. 23.—Mrs. Catherine Pennington, sixty years of age, was burned to death tonight at her home in Cohoes, caused by the explosion of a lamp. After the fire was extinguished she was found sitting in a chair, her body having been burned almost to a crisp.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 23.—Harry Hall, twenty-five years old, was held today on suspicion of having stolen \$1,400 worth of silk from the United States Express Company. The police believe that Hall's arrest will help them break up a gang of thieves which have for a long time been preying on express companies.

Hartford, Conn., Dec. 23.—Mary Pouch, fifty-five years of age, a resident of Bloomfield, was fatally shot this morning at her home by her son James, who claims that the shooting was accidental, but the officials have heard that there has been trouble in the Pouch family, and an investigation will be made.

New York, Dec. 23.—Emil Steinmann, while intoxicated tonight lay down on the sidewalk at Ninety-sixth street and Lexington avenue and shot himself in the stomach with a revolver. Some boys called a policeman, who, not knowing that he was wounded, dragged him to his feet and walked him to the station. There his wound was discovered and a surgeon sent for.

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INTERESTED IN HAWAII

Russian Capitalists Seeking Territory for Commercial Purposes.

An Agent Endeavors to Secure a Tract of Land in Hilo for Establishing a Colony.

San Francisco, Dec. 23.—If those who are opposed to annexation have not their eyes on Hawaii they are much mistaken. News was received here by the steamer China today that Russia is interested in the islands, and that a corporation of Russian capitalists is trying to secure a large tract of land on the island of Hilo to establish a colony.

The agent of the capitalists is A. Petrenko. Although the gentleman declares that the object of his trip to Hawaii was merely to inquire about coffee lands, it is known that the corporation which he represents has vast resources, and would, in the event of the purchase of much coffee or sugar property, attempt to divert much of the trade of the islands to other business channels than those controlled by the United States.

Politeness returned from Hilo to Honolulu on the regular inter-island steamer. He acknowledged that the Russian government was much interested in Hawaii, but alleges that his interest was merely of a commercial nature, and that his company was anxious to secure a firm business footing there.

WILL ASK PROMPT ANNEXATION President Realizes European Powers Are Corrupting Hawaii.

President McKinley, it is said, sees the necessity of Congress taking immediate action on the Hawaiian annexation treaty, and when the body assembles, after the holiday recess, will firmly protest against any further delay in approving the measure.

There is belief in the President's mind that the situation at the Pacific is such that it will not admit of postponement of action if the United States would possess Hawaii. He detects a concerted opposition on the part of European countries with a view of grabbing Pacific islands and the most fertile lands in the world.

Progressive administration leaders see in the action of England, France, Russia and Germany, in hurrying reinforcements to the Pacific, an indication of a transfer of the field of European expansion from the Atlantic coast territories, which they have been forbidden by the vigorous support of the Monroe doctrine, and from Africa, where all vast lands have been granted, to the rich countries of the Pacific Ocean, where Great Britain has had a practical monopoly of colonization these many years.

The snarling European nations, which are today biting into China and snatching what pieces they best can without hesitation, are now turning their eyes to the Pacific Ocean, where Great Britain has had a practical monopoly of colonization these many years.

Particularly is the voracity developed by the German Empire, a cause of concern, encouraged by its success in China. It is believed that the German Empire is now without a doubt covetous of Hawaii, and also of Samoa.

It may be said that the United States is not allowing the European powers to monopolize all the space in the Pacific Ocean with their warships. The Raleigh, Concord and Helix are now under way to reinforce the Asiatic squadron, under Admiral McVicar, and other warships will be transferred from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast. The Baltimore, Bennington and Adams are at Honolulu for Christmas and New Year's.

DAY DISCREDITS THE REPORT. Doesn't Think China Has Asked America to Be Her Ally.

At the State Department they discredit the report that China has asked the American government to become her ally in case of a threat to the European powers to dismember that empire.

Mr. Adee, Second Assistant Secretary of State, said yesterday that he had no reason to believe that there was any such information at the State Department. He was asked if the present relation of China to the United States was a matter of indifference to the State Department, and he replied that it was not, and that the State Department was not at all indifferent to the situation.

MURMURS IN HAWAII. Reports of Cabinet Disunion Over Friendliness to Kalanikou.

San Francisco, Dec. 23.—Reports received here privately from Honolulu, announce that disunion prevails in the Hawaiian cabinet. Several members of the cabinet, it is said, are anxious to secure the removal of Minister of Finance Damon, who objected to the friendly attitude of the cabinet toward the Princess Kaiulani, and its intimacy with Mr. Clegg, her father.

The reports also state that Minister Sewall, the United States representative in Hawaii, has been consulted by the cabinet in relation to the matter. He is also a member of the Los Angeles chamber of commerce, says in his paper that the recent memorial against annexation was passed by a clique controlled by several men interested in beet sugar.

Editor Passelone, of the Times, who is also a member of the Los Angeles chamber of commerce, says in his paper that the recent memorial against annexation was passed by a clique controlled by several men interested in beet sugar.

COURTEOUS CUSTOM RULES. Canadian Officials Reciprocate Privileges Allowed by America.

Ottawa, Ontario, Dec. 23.—The minister of customs has received a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury at Washington inquiring if travelers on the way to the Canadian coast could be given the same privileges for their goods passing through Canadian territory, and has replied that it was the desire of the Canadian government to afford every possible facility to the convenience of those using Canadian territory to reach the Circle City or other points in Alaska.

At present, however, owing to the great distance between Lake Bennett and such places as Circle City—about 700 miles—it would be impossible to keep track of the goods, but as soon as a regular transportation company were doing business a bond could be taken from them and the object accomplished in that way.

In the meantime, however, in order to accommodate the Washington authorities as much as possible, Mr. Patterson suggested that the duty on goods for Alaska Territory, going in by way of Lakes Bennett and Tagish, should be paid to the collector of customs at Tagish, who would give a

receipt and certificate to the traveler, which upon presentation to the Canadian collector of customs at Fort Yukon, would entitle the traveler to the same amount of duty refunded to him on the Customs collector seeing that the goods passed out of Canadian territory.

HER ROMANCE ENDED. Dies of Cancer of the Throat in London.

London, Dec. 23.—Lady Mills, widow of Sir John Mills, the late president of the Royal Academy, is dead.

Lady Mills had been suffering for some time past from cancer of the throat. The disease which caused the death of her husband on August 13, 1896, was the same disease which caused the death of her husband on August 13, 1896.

Ruskin, stood by in the church while, in 1884, she was married to the celebrated painter.

The history of Lady Mills's life was most romantic. She was a Miss Euphemia Chalmers, the daughter of an old Scotch family, of Bowerston, Perthshire, Scotland. When she was twenty years of age she met and married the painter John Ruskin, the eminent critic, historian, and philosopher. They were married in 1848.

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GOMPERS TO REPLY TO GAGE

But Not Until He Has the Secretary's Original Letter.

He Will Do So Direct, Declining to Say Anything Beforehand—Back From Nashville.

President Samuel Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, returned to the city yesterday from Nashville, where he attended the annual convention of the Federation. He was seen by a Times reporter and showed the open letter of Secretary of the Treasury Gage as published in The Times yesterday morning.

The letter took exception to the resolutions adopted during the Nashville convention, which characterized the financial policy as an undignified effort to rattle greenbacks and flatter the national bank system on the American people.

Mr. Gompers said that he did not desire to express himself publicly on the letter for the present. He said that he had not had the original letter handed to him, but expected to find it at his office this morning. He had read the open letter as published while returning from Nashville of the train, and had noticed what was contained therein with care.

Mr. Gompers said he would reply direct to Mr. Gage just as soon as he received the original letter. To discuss the published letter before that time, he said he thought would be unjust to both Mr. Gage and the American Federation of Labor.

Mr. Gompers said he was greatly pleased with the way in which the convention was handled, and the great amount of work done. Everything connected with the gathering was, he said, of the highest order. He said that "labor was undergoing an evolution, rather than a revolution."

HANNA HAS ARRANGED THINGS. After Confering With Friends He Declares His Election Assured.

Cleveland, Ohio, Dec. 23.—An important conference of Hanna leaders was held here today in the office of Senator Hanna. Those present were Judge Nash, chairman of the Republican State executive committee; Chauncey Dougherty, of the Republican State committee; John Molloy, clerk of the Ohio house of representatives; Alexander Cain, clerk of the Ohio senate; Senator Hanna and Major Dick.

The meeting was for the purpose of making complete plans for the Senatorial fight.

After the conference Senator Hanna said his election was assured.

MAY BANK MONEY ORDERS. They Can Now Go Through the Clearing House.

Postmaster Willett yesterday issued a circular calling the attention of the general public, but more especially the banking houses of arrangements recently perfected for the use of money orders.

The department by which postal money orders will be received at banks the same as checks. This method, which is known as the clearing-house system, will greatly facilitate money transactions, and is commended by the public.

Persons in whose favor postal money orders are drawn will, in the future, find it easier to their convenience and advantage to deposit their money orders with their bankers, instead of presenting them at the postoffice for payment.

Laborer Himself Bad Fall. Alex. King, a colored laborer living at No. 641 D street, avenue, fell from a building on Fourteenth street, near the power house, yesterday afternoon, and was severely injured. He was taken to Freedman's Hospital and will recover.

Will Mr. Ross Resign? The rumor that Commissioner Ross had decided to resign is again in circulation.

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NOT A PRACTICABLE PLAN

Grand Army Men on Pension Publication Scheme.

Commander Hopkins Advances Four Reasons Against Mr. Evans' Recommendation.

The recommendation of Commissioner of Pensions Evans, looking toward action by Congress requiring the publication of the pension list in full for the purpose of detecting frauds, has created considerable discussion in Grand Army of the Republic ranks. The consensus of opinion among the comrades of local posts seems to be that the scheme is not practicable. Any kind of legislation along the proposed line would hardly be antagonized by the Grand Army, as that organization expressed its approval to almost anything that would purge the pension roll of frauds, but the sentiment prevails that the proposed plan of publication would not accomplish any good results.

Commander Hopkins, of the Department of the Potomac, in an interview with a Times reporter, said: "I do not antagonize the publication of the pension list in full, but I think it would be unwise to do so. It would result in any good. As far as I am concerned, I would just as soon leave the plan carry, if there is any belief that it will lead to the detection of fraud, but I do not think that it would do anything of the kind."

"Have you any strong reasons for thinking the plan would be useless or unwise?" asked the reporter.

"First, it would cost in the neighborhood of about \$200,000. This being the case, it is hardly likely that it would be practicable for the Government to make such a large publication as the small number of frauds already detected leads to the belief that only a few could be found on the roll."

Second, the list would not be read. Third, it has been the practice under former administrations, when the newspapers wanted a list of pensioners in any locality for the purpose of investigating claims and detecting frauds for the Pension Office, to furnish those newspapers with a list of names, and such could be done now and frauds hunted out just as well as they could be under the proposed "publication" method.

A large number of pensioners have to do with the pension office, and it is not to be printed in print, and advertised to their neighbors. Then again, a large number have diseases, other than wounds, that they would not, for decency's sake, want placed in 1897.

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Full Member of the Conway Gang Sentenced to Fifteen Years.

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 23.—Albert S. Warner, the New York lawyer, last of the trio of the Conway boy kidnappers, was sentenced in the trial of the conspiracy court before Judge Chester this morning.

He pleaded guilty and this afternoon received the maximum sentence of fifteen years' incarceration, which he will serve in the Clinton prison.

Warner made a statement in which he said he knew nothing about the kidnapping until twelve hours after the child had been stolen. He warned Burke his game was up, and he was advised the child be surrendered. Warner said he took charge of the boy, this said Warner, covered his own connection with the case.

SHOE BILL IN DIVORCE SUIT. Aged Defendant Springs It in Answering His Young Wife's Bill.

Chicago, Dec. 23.—Mendelsohn purchased by a rich man's wife for other than those of her husband will figure conspicuously in a divorce trial that will soon be called in the Chicago courts. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Gibson, of Rockford, and King's Station, Ill., are the parties to the suit.

The wife, who makes the complaint, is barely out of her teens. She charges infidelity. The husband is sixty-eight and worth \$150,000. In his answer to her complaint, Gibson has filed a mere show bill, constructed by his wife. He proposes to show that neither he nor his wife's relatives were the shoes.

Mrs. Gibson is at present living in Philadelphia with her mother, Mrs. Sarah Melvin.

W. BERRY ERVIN GOES FREE. Is a Brother of Banker Spaulding's Typewriter.

Chicago, Dec. 23.—W. Berry Ervin, former assistant cashier of the Globe Savings Bank, is free. A jury in Judge Chetlain's court returned a sealed verdict this morning, declaring that he was not guilty of the charge of receiving deposits without authority of the bank's board.

The young man, whose name has been coupled with that of Banker Spaulding, and whose sister gained much notoriety upon the bank's failure, received congratulations from all sides, and walked out of court with the remark: "It is just what I expected."